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# The Strip is Just One Street

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*College of DuPage*

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# The Strip is Just One Street

By Kathleen Swain

my sister moved to Las Vegas  
thinking the glittering lights  
and the sound of coins clinking on metal  
would cover up  
with their glamour  
the shattered life she left here,  
her new marriage already  
beginning to crumble,  
the ruins of our parents  
tumultuous lives,  
our disintegrating grandmother.  
trading rabbits and squirrels  
for baby quail, cockroaches,  
and black widow hunting,  
one night we took a flashlight  
to find the tiny monsters we  
so desperately feared.  
and I felt guilty, for  
the intricate webs they built  
were swept away each morning,  
weighed down by dew,  
yet each night were dutifully rebuilt.  
wishing I could just as simply  
rebuild or recreate  
my life each day  
I wandered off into the darkness  
towards a fountain.  
the stagnant water held  
comical rubber ducks with  
sunglasses on and  
my sister said they had  
to turn the fountain off  
because of the water storage.  
I looked back at the ducks  
floating so lonely  
and I thought perhaps  
the plastic ducks and the poisonous spiders  
and my sister and I  
weren't so different after all.